

January 7, 2011

Tom Brim
President
Association of Building, Mechanical and Electrical Inspectors (ABMEI)
c/o PBCE Department

RE: City/ABMEI Negotiations

Dear Tom:

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 6, 2011, which responded to the City's letter dated December 17, 2010, regarding ABMEI contract negotiations. Please clarify if you are also responding to our letter dated December 17, 2010, regarding negotiations over retirement benefits.

Your letter requests a delay in beginning negotiations so that you can have a minimum of two to three weeks to select a negotiating team and "properly prepare for meaningful negotiations."

We had hoped that ABMEI shared our interest in beginning negotiations as soon as possible given the very significant challenge we have ahead of us as well as our mutual obligation to endeavor to reach agreement on matters within the scope of representation prior to the City Council's adoption of the final budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Also approved by the City Council on November 18, 2010, was a guiding principle to commence negotiations in January 2011 so that there is sufficient time to carefully evaluate proposals that are exchanged between the City and each union. It was the City's hope that we could begin negotiations as soon as possible to allow ample time for discussions. A delay in commencing negotiations limits joint problem solving opportunities.

We ask that ABMEI reconsider and agree to begin negotiations the week of January 10, 2011.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Alex Gurza
Director of Employee Relations

c: Gina Donnelly, Deputy Director of Employee Relations